

Department of History

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October 30, 1984

Dear Harold:

This is to acknowledge receipt of the packet of FBI documents you had mailed me and accompanying letters dated October 23, 1984 and September 21, 1984. I also received additional documents you had mailed to me without any accompanying, dated letter.

First, I do want to thank you again for going through the trouble to locate and xerox the FBI documents. I have found them useful, and particularly those describing how Hoover's testimony was edited and the "Director is always right" example. They provide insights into Hoover's personality and his direction of the FBI and combined with my other research findings allow us to understand his impact on the Bureau and national politics.

I did find your discussion of the Shaneyfelt matter fascinating, yet have decided against your sending me the records. The example offers insights into how the FBI operated, less so into Hoover's persona. I fear that I already have too much of the Bureau in what is intended to be a biography.

Writing proceeds apace, and I am on schedule (my own schedule). At present I feel confident that I shall meet my publication deadline. I had known, by the way, of the Welch book. I have not yet purchased a copy (owing to the press of other business) but shall be doing so this next month. I suspect that the book will prove to be of limited value, and is in the genre of Sullivan's diatribe. I hope to obtain examples of Hoover's relations with agents and his administrative rules and procedures. I doubt that Welch will tell us much about the conservative politics of the FBI and further how it was that Hoover amassed such unprecedented power. I am willing to be surprised, but am not counting on it.

I have processed your bill through the University's budget office and have asked them to send you a check directly--you should receive same for \$41.70 within the next week to ten days.

Again my thanks.

As ever,

